

COMMON SENSE.

DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF COLLECTORS OF ALL CLASSES.

VOL. 1—No. 1.

MEXICO, N. Y., MARCH, 1887.

F. A. THOMAS, *Editor.*

FOR SALE.

Remember the following goods are all in good condition and post-paid.

12 var. Confederate State money and bonds, 50c.; 12 var. metal rebellion cards, 50c.; 12 species of fossils (named), 50c.; 12 var. of minerals (named) 50c.; 20 var. sea shells, sea beans and coral, 50c.; 12 species of birds eggs (named), \$1; 12 foreign coins, 1800 and previous, \$1; 12 var. silver, Ger. silver and nickle coins, \$1; 25 var. foreign coins, many desirable, \$1; 12 var. old State bank bills, \$1; Magnetic iron ore (load stone), per oz., 25c.; California gold halves, 60c, quarters 30c.; Trilobites, 25c to \$1 each, Fern fossils 25 to 50c.

12 assorted flint arrow points.....50c.
Ungrooved stone axes.....each 25 to 50c.
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We have modern Indian relics, such as fine buckskin, squaw suits, guncases, medicine and tobacco bags, red pipes, bows and arrows, moccasins, etc. We have a great variety of old arms, flint-locks, swords, pistols, also rude Confederate pikes, swords, knives, etc.

Send stamps for Price Lists of Indian Relics, Autographs, Minerals, Fossils, Coins, Confederate Money, etc.

R. W. MERCER,

147 Central Avenue,

CINCINNATI, O.

Incidents in Coin Collecting.

BY J. G. BINGHAM, MCGRAWVILLE, N. Y.

In the month of October, 1875, I met a gentleman at the *First National Bank* in Cortland, N. Y., who, after the preliminaries of an introduction, in which he learned I was a Coin Collector, began to inquire of my success, and showed considerable interest in the statements I there made him.

After a short conversation he said: "If you will call up to my house in H——some day I will let you have a few pieces that I think you will find desirable." Thanking him and promising to do so at the first leisure moment, we separated. In a few days I had a business call to H—— nine miles distant, and after its completion I drove to the gentleman's house, finding him at home.

He brought out a small parcel from another room in which stood his safe and some other office furniture, and before undoing the package he prefaced, showing its contents with the remark: "I have had these coins in my possession nearly four years. I remember I thought they were so nice in appearance at that time that I concluded to lay them aside as keepsakes. But I have lost interest in them, and for the vim and enthusiasm you show in the profession I have taken a liking to you; and if you care for these coins you shall have them."

Untieing the parcel in the meantime and in which I was mentally hoping he had some fine and rare coins; imagine my astonishment when the first piece that made its appearance was a *proof* U. S. dollar of 1836. "Isn't that a fine fellow" he remarked. I acquiesced that it was quite pretty for so late a date. Here are some more that perhaps you will like better, slowly handing out fine dollars of 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798 and 1799. These were so perfectly preserved as to be almost gems of their years.

Untieing another small package, he dropped out eleven half dollars, one very good of 1815, but unfortunately pierced with a small hole over the head of Liberty. One of 1820, one a proof of 1830 and the balance of later dates, all in excellent state of preservation. The last package contained seven U. S. cents only. Try as hard as I could not to manifest too much interest, these last nearly out-generaled me. I ran my eyes over their dates, 1793, 1795, 1796, 1807, over six 1809, 1811 and 1812. Not a worn cent in the lot, but each in fine to uncirculated (as from the die) conditions; conditions so desirable to coin fanciers. I could hardly conceal my excitement, as I mentally exclaimed "they are magnificent, grand, every one a gem." I sounded each piece to test genuineness; none gave any uncertain sound. I examined each closely, and the more closely examined the more they pleased me. After doing so, in which the gentleman watched every movement with interest, I said "they are a good lot friend C., and if you will spare them at a reasonable price, I would certainly like them." C's reply was given without any hesitation "I am glad that you like them, and you shall have them at your own figures."

Not at all my Dear Sir, I answered. "You must make your own price, and if agreeable, I will accept and thank you." Taking his pencil and a scrap of paper he made a moments calculation and said, "give me fifty cents on the dollar over face value on the dollars and half dollars, and I think the cents are worth or ought to be about 35 cents. The lot total amount to \$17.60." I passed to him a \$20 bill and upon his rising to get me the difference I said, "do not trouble yourself to get the change, the coins are worth the \$20 and I prefer to pay you more than to pay you any less. He expostulated, but I was firm, and doing

up the coins and putting them in my pocket, we, after a short conversation on various subjects, parted with kindly feelings of esteem and regard. I might add that afterward I was offered \$100 for this identical lot of coins, and (foolishly perhaps) did not think best to accept it; but later I did spare one of the dollars at \$18.50 and three of the cents at \$21.50, retaining the best of all in my own collection.

Mexican Ruins.

The Chichuahua (Mexico) Enterprise reports the discovery of some remarkable ancient ruins near Magdalena, in Sonora. Half way up the hill, which is about 700 feet high, is a layer of gypsum, white as snow, and easily cut, yet hard enough to retain its shape after being cut. In it are cut a great number of rooms. The walls and ceilings are plumb, the walls being about eight feet high. There are no windows, though the stone is so white that the rooms are not dark. Figures carved on the walls show human hands having five fingers and a thumb, and the feet having six toes. The rooms are one above another to the height of three or four stories, but they secede at each story the width of a room, presenting the appearance of steps.

There is now in the museum of the German P. O. Department, a letter cover a hundred years old, that tells an odd story. The local magistrate at Dargan has contributed the envelope that enclosed an ordinary letter sent at some time between 1760 and 1789, from Philadelphia, to his great-grand-father. The sender left his correspondent to pay for it, and the stamps on the cover show that after it had come through London, Calais, Brussels, Hague, Amsterdam and Hamburg, he was mulcted just 5 thalers and 12 shilling Mecklenburg money, or about \$4.50. Nowadays such a letter is sent all over the world for five cents.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

Dealers try an "adv.," 3,000 copies in the next issue. Sent to all live collectors in United States and Canada. Notice low rates.

EXCHANGES.

These columns are free to all, but subscribers will be given the preference. All exchanges must be in by the 15th of the month to insure insertion in next number.

I will send the paper a whole year—post-paid, for five Indian arrow-heads or two spear-heads. I also want any curiosities, relics and minerals that I can get. Collectors please send lists.

F. A. THOMAS,

Mexico, N. Y.

Collectors please send me lists of Indian relics. I will exchange—all letters answered.

AVERY SKINNER,

Mexico, N. Y.

Notes.

When you see a stamp that is worth dollars, advertised for ten cents, don't buy it, for no doubt it is a counterfeit.

In the Smithsonian Institute at Washington is the small nugget of gold, a little larger than a pea, that first met the eyes of John Marshall in the sawmill raceway at Sacramento, and was the beginning of those discoveries in California that have added nearly \$1,500,000,000 in gold to the world's stock of the precious metals.

The scales used in the U. S. assay office are so delicate that a hair turns the balance. You can ascertain by them the difference in weight of two eye-lashes. They are made of aluminum, and might be compared to a snow-flake.

A gold nugget weighing thirty-five pounds and valued at \$6,000 is on exhibition in San Francisco. It was found in the northeastern part of the State and is the largest and finest ever unearthed.

The petrified skeleton of a whale over thirty feet long has been discovered, by an officer of the coast survey, on a range of mountains in Monterey county, Cal., over 3,300 feet above the sea level.

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We have all kinds of war relics, including

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Send stamp for large list of War Relics, Minerals, Woods, Curiosities, Natural History Specimens, etc. Correspondence solicited with collectors.

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1 fine Wisconsin Arrow head.....	6 cts.
1 fine Wisconsin Spear head.....	25 "
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1 Sharks Egg.....	5 "
1 Star Fish.....	5 "
5 varieties Mineral Specimens, labelled.....	25 "
5 varieties Foreign Coins.....	15 "
2 varieties Confederate States Stamps.....	6 "
Hints on Insect Collecting.....	10 "
Premium Coin List.....	10 "
Gem Stamp Album.....	11 "
World Stamp Album.....	25 "

All Sent Post Paid.

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A pencil, pen holder and self-inking rubber stamp, combined with 1, 2 or 3 lines of any reading desired.

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COMMON SENSE.

F. A. THOMAS, - - - - - EDITOR.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

One year, post-paid.....25 cts.
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ADVERTISING RATES.

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 1 inch 1 "......40 ".....1.00
 2 inches "......75 ".....1.75
 3 inches ".....1.00 ".....2.50

SPECIAL RATES FOR LARGER SPACE.

Communications on any of the subjects treated in this paper, will be thankfully received.

All advertising matter must be in by the 15th of the month, to insure insertion in next number.

Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.
 Address all letters to the publisher, F. A. Thomas, Mexico, N. Y.

Vol. 1. MEXICO, MARCH, 1887. No. 1.

With Editorial Quill.

As this is the first number of "Common Sense," there are no doubt, many mistakes and blunders. Overlook them if you can, and give credit for what you see in its columns. The aim of the paper is this: To give all collectors of coins, relics, minerals, curiosities, etc., a better idea of the value of specimens, how to add to their collections, and a paper through which they may express their opinions. The Exchange column is free to all subscribers; in this way it is worth a great deal to you. You will get letters from persons who have collections all over the United States. The price is but twenty-five cents per year and you get a premium worth that alone. The paper has come to stay and you need not be afraid to send the money, for you will get the twelve numbers and more if you pay for the next year. I shall be pleased to hear from collectors in all parts of the country, about any subject that is treated by this paper. Having a large collection myself, I am very much pleased to hear from anyone on this subject—hoping to hear from every collector in the way of a subscription.

Premiums.

I will give to all who send twenty-five cents for this paper a whole year, any one of the following: (Please remember that these specimens are large, perfect and fine and to buy them one at a time from my list, or any other dealer's, you would pay from ten to twenty-five cents per

specimen. Sent back to you same day as your letter is received.)

1. A large shark's egg.
2. A large sea urchin.
3. A large spec. of asbestos.
4. A large spec. of cocolite.
5. A large spec. of copper ore.
6. A large spec. of silver ore.
7. A large spec. of gold ore.
8. Four good fossils.
9. Four spec. of Indian pottery.
10. Four good curiosities.
11. Four good minerals.
12. Twenty-five small sea shells.
13. Pine cone, California.
14. Chestnut burr.
15. My 14 page price list.

Send stamps or postal note, would rather have the latter. Send at once.

Review.

"The Introductory Stamp Album" is a good album for beginners. The printing is neat, and taking all in all it is the best we have seen for the price. Published by W. C. Parker, Elmira, N. Y. Price 15 cents.

We received some time ago a large box of "war relics" from Victor A. Rohrer, Trego, Md. They were fine, and in a few years cannot be obtained at any price. We cheerfully recommend him to all who want anything in his line.

The following received: Please come again—"Youth's Ledger," "Curiosity World," "Exchanger's Monthly," "Stamp World," "American Numismatist," "The Collector," "The Eclipse," "Empire State Philatelist," "Tag World," "Peerless Review," "Philatelic Monthly," and "Clyde Press."

The "Youth's Ledger" published at Hulmetta, N. J., is one of the best papers of its kind published. It is large, full of good reading-matter and well worth the price, twenty-five cents per year. We will send "Youth's Ledger" and "Common Sense" a whole year for only thirty-five cents. Send at once.

The "Exchanger's Monthly," published at 284 Pavonia Ave., Jersey City, N. J., is another good paper. Eight pages and cover, full of good sound reading, large exchange column—only twenty-five cents per year. "Common Sense" and "Exchanger's Monthly," thirty cents.

1869. ESTABLISHED 17 YEARS. 1886.

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POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE.—New edition 25c. In cloth binding 50c.

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For the next sixty days only, I will send a rubber stamp with your name in fancy type, pads, bottle of best Indelible Ink, twenty-five visiting cards, and full directions for using; all packed in a neat box and sent postage paid, for only 20 cts.

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W. C. PARKER,

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Subscription, - - 15 Cents per year,
 or the Gazette and Common Sense a year for 25c.

Address F. B. VOILAND, Publisher,

CHARITON, IOWA.

Bird's Nests as Food.

BY "TED."

In Canton, China, whole streets are occupied by venders of bird's nests, a dainty which, rendered in soup and jelly, is regarded a most delectable morsel. This nest is the size of a small tea-cup, and weighs scarcely a half-ounce. It is of a creamy whiteness and fetches twice its weight in silver. The first nest, which is made of a gelatine produced from the body of the bird, is the best and the one that brings the highest price. The second nest, which the poor birds must now build, is made not like the first, but being unable to secrete sufficient gluten, mixes in sticks, feathers and dried grass. These also find a market at a much lower price. The third and last nest being comparatively worthless for food, the little builder is allowed to retain possession and rear its family. A million and a half dollars are annually expended by the Chinese for this luxury, and hundreds of men spend their lives in the perilous work of collecting the nests from the deep caverns, frightful cliffs and overhanging rocks. The chief region of supply is that comprising Java, Borneo, and the Lulu Islands. The bird which produces this wonderful nest is a little swallow, "hirundo esculenta." It is a very small bird having a brown back, but the under surface of its body, as also the extremities of the feathers in its forked tail are white. It flies with wonderful speed and precision, and on the Java coast, where the surge breaks wildly against the precipitous and caverned walls of rock, the little birds may be seen in swarms darting hither and thither through the spray. They probably feed on fragments of molluscs and other small animals which abound on those coasts. When one of the little birds wishes to begin building, it flies repeatedly against the selected spot, pressing each time a little saliva against the rock with the tip of the tongue. This it will do from ten to twenty times, moving away from the nest each time only a few yards. It is thought that this secretion comes from the largely developed glands in

its stomach. It never uses the same nest more than once, and that for only a month, and after the young brood is flown the nest soon decays and falls to pieces. The men employed in getting the nests have many dangers to overcome, for the nests are only approachable by a perpendicular descent of many hundred feet, over a sea rolling violently against the rocks. The high price given for these delicacies is, however, a sufficient inducement for the gatherers to follow this dreadful trade. The best harvest is in the months of July and August, the next best in November and December, and the worst in April and May. The greatest trade is at Canton, 168,000 pounds being sent there each year. It takes 8,400,000 nests to supply the demand, being the produce of 2,800,000 pairs of birds. The Chinese set a high value upon them, considering them one of the best stimulants, but for this opinion there seems to be little or no ground. The most recent analysis of the nests, show that the material does not consist of specially nourishing or stimulating substances, but is quite similar in constitution to any animal saliva. Thus the Chinese pay dearly for what has really no intrinsic value.

A twenty cent piece of 1877 is worth \$1.50.

A two cent piece of 1873 is worth 60 cents.

All dies of coins at the U. S. mint are destroyed once a year.

A dollar of 1838 or 1839 is worth \$15 or \$20 to the coin collector.

The number of living specimens known to Science is over 300,000.

Specie payment was suspended in December, 1861. The highest premium ever paid on gold since that time was in July, 1864, when the value of \$100 in gold ranged from \$275 to \$285 in currency. Specie payment was resumed Jan. 1, 1879.

William Sherer, of the U. S. Sub-treasury, New York City, has been known to count paper money at the rate of 1000 notes in six minutes. It is stated that there are women in the Treasury at Washington who can count even faster than that.

BARGAINS.

A fine and perfect Arrowhead12 cts.
A fine and perfect Spearhead25 "
A large specimen of Pottery10 "
150 Sea Shells, (small)15 "
12 fine curiosities, named25 "
12 fine minerals, named25 "
40 better minerals, named75 "
Nugget Scarf Pin, fine30 "
Chinese Chopsticks, pair15 "
Roman Coin, 1600 years old15 "
Chinese and Siamese Coins05 "
Japan "Tempos" 400 years old15 "
Five Silver Coins 1634 years old75 "
Old Newspapers, 180615 "
Old Newspapers, 178025 "
Chinese Newspaper12 "

All sent post paid. My fourteen page list with an order of 50 cts. or more.

F. A. THOMAS,

Mexico, N. Y.

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Revenue Collectors send for one of my unequalled sheets of U. S. Revenues. Lowest price. Commission 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. \$25 first issue, \$1.60; \$25 second issue, \$3.50; \$20 third issue, \$5. Lists free.

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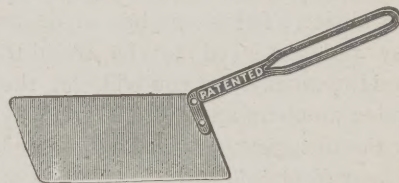
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Address,

HOLLISTER BROS.,

Mexico, N. Y.

COMMON SENSE.

DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF COLLECTORS OF ALL CLASSES.

VOL. 1—No. 2.

MEXICO, N. Y., APRIL, 1887.

F. A. THOMAS, *Editor*.

COLLECTORS ! DEALERS !

Please Look at These Low Prices.

NO TRASH.

1,400 star fish at 3c. each, or 25c. per doz.
 1,000 sea urchins at 5c. each, or 50c. per doz.
 2,000 shells, large, per pair, 5c., or 40c. "
 3,000 " small, " 2c., or 15c. "
 600 crabs' backs, at 5c. each, or 40c. per doz.
 500 sharks' eggs, at 4c. each, or 35c. per doz.
 100 horseshoe crabs, at 15c. each, or \$1.25 "
 200 arrow's heads, Oregon (bird), 12c. each.
 600 arrow's heads, Virginia (fine), 10c. each.
 200 arrow's heads, Ohio (fine), 6c. each.
 1,000 arrow heads (good), 5c. each. *PRICE*
 12 fine and perfect arrows sent for 60c.
 200 fine specimens of chalk flint, 4c.
 200 fine specimens of red jasper, 4c.
 200 fine specimens of asbestos, 4c.
 200 fine specimens of coccolite, 4c.
 200 fine specimens of copper ore, 4c.
 5 different specimens for only 15c.
 10 different minerals, fine, 20c.
 40 different minerals, very fine, 75c.
 Mineral scarf pin, beautiful, 25c.
 Chinese coins, 4c; Siamese coins, 4c.
 Japan tempos, 400 years old (rare), 12c.
 5 large U. S. cents, different dates (old), 25c.
 10 good foreign coins, worth 60c., 30c.
 5 foreign *silver* coins, very old, 1634, etc., 75c.
 3 different medals—Washington, Independence Hall and Lincoln medal, all, 25c.
 Chinese chop sticks, pair, 10c.
 Chinese horn nuts, 4c.
 Chinese newspapers, rare, 10c.
 Chinese cacti nuts, 4c.
 Old newspapers, 1733, 25c.; 1805, 12c.
 Wood from old war ship New Orleans, war of 1812, polished, 3x4x½ inches, fine, 12c.
 Hot Springs' crystals, two fine ones, 15c.
 Rattle snakes' rattles, large, 20c.
 Ostrich eggs, \$1.50.
 10 different birds' eggs, worth \$1, 40c.
 Florida moss, large package, 5c.
 Bullets from Bull Run (genuine), 12c.
 5 different bullets from diff. battlefields, 40c.
 Alligator teeth or buffalo teeth (large), 12c.

Send 20c. for a package of 10 curiosities; worth by any list, 50c. Any order under 25c. must contain 5c. extra for postage. Any order of \$1.50 or more I will send "Common Sense" one year free. My large 12 page price list of coins, stamps, relics, etc., etc., sent with an order of 50c. or more. Give me a trial.

Yours very truly,

F. A. THOMAS,

Agents Wanted.

Mexico, N. Y.

Opening An Indian Mound.

BY A. H. T.

One fine morning in June, 1883, we found ourselves on board the cars, well seated, and on our way for Massena Springs. We had all the experiences that the Summer traveller generally has, in the way of cross fellow-travellers, surly conductors, dust and flies. After travelling about eight hours we reached Norwood, where we found waiting a most pretentious stage coach, and had we not been assured by other surroundings might have easily imagined ourselves, carried back fifty or sixty years to the time, when the advent of the stage coach was the principal feature of a day. We had a dapper little driver, who thoroughly understood his business, and the way in which he guided his four horses around curves, up and down long hills, and over the roughest places was something well worth watching. We changed horses three times during the twenty-two miles drive, making the distance in two hours. It may be unnecessary to add that the horses supplied an endless topic of conversation for our driver. When at last we drew up at the hotel, we were well met by the entire population of that community. At dinner we overheard several remarks from a gentleman sitting near us, and from his conversation gathered that he was interested as well as we in the Indian Mounds, which are near the Springs. We were not long in seeking an introduction, thereby learning what we had already conjectured, that Dr. Brown (as we will call him) was planning an expedition to the mounds. We decided upon the following morning, should it prove pleasant to begin operations, and Columbus, with all his charts, never did more serious planning than did we. June mornings are beautiful, as a rule, and our morning proved no exception. We

had drawn upon the resources of the hotel for clothing suitable to wear upon such an occasion, and for implements with which to open the mounds. When we were ready that morning every one of us needed letters testifying as to character, for we were certainly a most formidable looking lot. Our clothing was very much like the rented suits at the bathing beach, where the big man always gets too small a suit, while his smaller brother is completely lost in his. After many happenings by the way, some of which were funny for us and some for the people we met, we came to Dodge's Landing, where we went immediately on board a steam yacht. Having had a delightful ride of about fifteen miles down the grand old St. Lawrence river, we came to an island of about five acres, and recognizing in this our destination, we left our trim little yacht, not forgetting to take with us the lunch baskets. Luncheon being disposed of with no difficulty, we started under the leadership of the Doctor for the mounds which we were about to open. There were two on this island, the larger of which we opened, it being about twenty-five feet in length, eight feet in height, and ten feet through. We began in the centre, and worked out toward the extremities, and work it was, as any one can tell you that ever did any of this kind of work. Not until late in the afternoon did we find anything, when suddenly the Doctor came rushing to our part of the excavation, flourishing a magnificent specimen of an Indian axe, weighing six pounds, which he had just unearthed. After that we were amply rewarded for all our trouble, for we found the most curious jaw bone, together with arrows, spear heads, a stone pipe, a few beads, and other trinkets. A netting of birch bark, which was supposed to have been wrapped about bodies

during the burial service, was most beautifully and evenly made, quite eclipsing the modern shroud. We found several quite large pieces, some six or eight inches square. The lower bone was very large, and might have belonged to that individual in the circus, known to the world as the "Man with the iron jaw," for all the teeth were double, and from their shape were indicative of great strength. We returned much richer than we went, and it is safe to say that everyone felt benefitted. Of course innumerable questions were asked by the people that awaited our return, and much curiosity and interest was manifested over the results of our labor. However, one must himself partake in such an undertaking to realize to the full extent of the satisfaction that is to be derived.

Notes by the Way.

Nearly everybody is getting out a dictionary of all the collectors in the United States and Canada. It ought to be a good thing, and no doubt will meet with success.

A great many papers have been received the past month. The publishers will please accept my thanks. I wish to exchange with every paper published. Send them along, and I will return each month.

Do not forget to subscribe. Just think of it! Only 25 cents per year, and then get a premium worth that alone; or I will send this paper a whole year for five Indian arrow heads or two spear heads. Send me the names of your friends, and I will send them sample copy. Do it now.

We should say that Mr. Hubbard was doing a great business with his paper, "The Curiosity World." The February number was full of good reading matter, and no doubt the March number will be a great deal better.

Our thanks are due to Prof. G. K. Green, of New Albany, Ind., for the many kind words about our paper. He is a man well known to the collector, who is always ready to help and do anything in his power for the advancement of the Science of Minerals or Fossils.

EXCHANGES.

These columns are free to all, but subscribers will be given the preference. All exchanges must be in by the 15th of the month to insure insertion in next number.

I want a good pair of Indian moccasins; humming bird's nest, its eggs and the bird itself; crystals; Indian arrows' heads (for five I will send this paper one year; and, in fact, any good relic, curiosity or fine mineral. I have many fine specimens to exchange—ostrich eggs, onyx, amethyst, coins, stamps, etc. Every collector ought to send lists for exchange. A long list of useful books, etc., sent for stamp.

F. A. THOMAS,
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Wanted—Old coins, United States or foreign, for which I will exchange cloth and paper bound books, curiosities, story papers, etc. Send lists and receive mine. What offer for Vol. 1, "Youth's Ledger?"

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Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.

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F. A. THOMAS, - - - - - EDITOR.

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Communications on any of the subjects treated in this paper, will be thankfully received.

All advertising matter must be in by the 15th of the month, to insure insertion in next number.

Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.

Address all letters to the publisher, F. A. Thomas, Mexico, N. Y.

(Entered at the Post Office at Mexico as Second Class Matter.)

Vol. 1. MEXICO, APRIL, 1887. No. 2.

With Editorial Quill.

I wish to thank all who have so kindly helped us in this, our new enterprise. And I think that all who have sent or who will send the small sum asked for a year's subscription will not, at the end of the year, feel as though they had not got their money's worth from the paper. In looking over the many papers that have been sent us, I find some that are gotten up in splendid shape, while others, well, not so nice. I will let it be with my readers to decide this question in regard to this paper. I have had two or three "advs" sent me—"Three Photos of Lovely Girls" only ten cents. I do not wish any such "advs" to go in my paper, and I think all of my readers will take side with me. The paper is devoted to collectors of coins, stamps, relics, etc., and not to "advs" relating to "Lovely Girls." Thanking you again and hoping to receive your future trade, I remain truly yours, THE EDITOR.

Premiums.

I will give to all who send twenty-five cents for this paper a whole year, any one of the following: (Please remember that these specimens are large, perfect and fine and to buy them one at a time from my list, or any other dealer's, you would pay from ten to twenty-five cents per specimen. Sent back to you same day as your letter is received.)

1. A large shark's egg.
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11. Four good minerals.
12. Twenty-five small sea shells.
13. Pine cone, California.
14. Chestnut burr.
15. My 14 page price list.

Send stamps or postal note, would rather have the latter. Send at once.

Review.

Frank B. Webster's new price list of bird's eggs received. The prices are way down. I guess he has divided the old prices by two. Anyone wanting first-class eggs had better send to him at once for this new list.

L. W. Durbin's "Standard Catalogue of Postage Stamps," sixteenth edition, at hand. It is large (140 pages), well printed and, in fact, the best one we have seen. Mr. Durbin has been in the stamp business eighteen years, and during all this time no one has ever had any fault to find with any of his dealings. Any collector of stamps, advanced or beginner, will do well to send for this list. Price, 25 cents.

Mr. William P. Brown's new price list received. He is an old dealer, and a reliable one, too. Anyone wanting any of his goods should send for lists.

The "Mohawk Standard," published by Clarence D. Smith, of Delta, N. Y., is a fine paper, and I think every collector should send 25 cents to him and receive the paper one year. It is not generally known that Mr. Smith is an invalid, having been so a number of years. He is also a dealer in stamps. Send for sample copy and then subscribe.

Just think of it! This paper a whole year and premium for only 25 cents. Send in the name of your friends and I will send sample copy to each of them. If you should not happen to get your paper, send me a card saying you did not get it, and I will be happy to send you another.

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Meteoric Stones.

BY "TED."

It is a curious and, indeed, a startling fact, that hot, ponderous masses of mineral and earthy matter are often projected with such great force upon the earth from the mysterious depths of space from over our heads. In former times the falling of these stones was universally regarded with great superstition. The fall of a meteor in Eastern countries was supposed to be the immediate precursor of some very important event or national calamity. So we have the precise date of each descent, which was carefully recorded. In China, for example, these records go back more than two thousand years; between the years of 644 B. C. and 333 A. D. more than sixteen aerolites fell. No wonder that these people were filled with terror when the whizzing missiles, all aglow with light, dashed down among them, from where they had no idea. Several people have been known to have been killed with them, and a village in India was set on fire through their agency. Instances of this kind are rare, but since the stones are liable to fall anywhere and at any time, it is a wonder that more people are not hurt than there are. The stones, when they strike the earth, are always in a more or less heated state. The heat in large masses continues so long that often they can not be touched for several hours. In 467 B. C. a meteoric stone fell at Argos, which was of vast size, if the accounts of Pliny are reliable. He represented it as a great stone, the size of two millstones, and equal in weight to a full wagon-load. A very large and remarkable stone fell in Alsace, in France, in 1492. It is still preserved in the Public Library of Colmar, and is regarded as an object of much interest by residents and travellers. The first recorded fall of an aerolite in England was in 1623, in Devonshire. Since the fall of this stone twenty-three others have been recorded. The largest, which weighed fifty-six pounds, is now preserved in the British Museum. In striking the earth it penetrated through eighteen inches of soil and hard chalk. The

fall of stones in this country have been quite frequent, and almost every museum of any extent contains one or more specimens. The Smithsonian Institute, in Washington, contains many fine specimens from all over the country. They have fallen in every state in the Union, in Mexico, in South America, and there are but few people who have attained middle life having not seen in the heavens these fiery messengers, shooting across the sky, and lighting up the country for a vast distance. They are still objects of terror to the Indians, who think it is only a warning to some great calamity soon to overtake them. The fall in Northern New York is quite numerous. I have one in my collection, which fell in New Haven, weighing twenty-six pounds, of a dark color, very hard, and containing a large amount of iron. About a hundred years ago the eminent mathematicians of the time took up the subject, and by a course of reasoning proved that they could not come from the moon, as it was at one time supposed, as by careful measurements of their velocity they were found to move, when near the earth, 114,000 feet, or $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles per second. Now, if they come from the moon, they would start with a velocity of 8,292 per second, and reach the earth with a velocity of 35,000 feet per second. It was clear, therefore, that they came from a more distant region than the moon.

It is said that the son of the Duchess de Galliera has the finest collection of stamps in the world. It fills 300 volumes, and has cost him \$350,000. Some people would think that it was money thrown away, but no doubt he has money enough, and if he is interested in Philately and wishes to spend his money in that way, why it is no one's business but his own.

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VOL. 1—No. 3.

MEXICO, N. Y., MAY, 1887.

F. A. THOMAS, *Editor*.

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History of Coins.

Coins, pieces of metal, generally gold, silver or copper, bearing certain marks to indicate their value and origin. How early gold and silver began to be used as money is not known, but no doubt many centuries before Christ. It is now thought that the Lydians were the first to coin money; and although the oldest specimen of coin now extant have usually been supposed to be Grecian, there are good reasons for thinking that the invention was Asiatic. In the fourth century money was found throughout the civilized world, nearly every country having its own coinage. The early coins of Asia Minor were of electrum, a mixture of gold and silver, three parts of gold, one of silver. The money of Sparta at one time was made of iron, \$100 worth would require a cart and two oxen to remove it. Copper formed the money of the Romans. Many of their coins are found at the present time. When Cæsar landed in Britain, coins of brass and iron were found in use. James II, also Charles II, made coins from tin, even resorted to gun metal and pewter. But in the present century only the precious metals, gold and silver, with copper for the lowest denomination, are used as metal for coins; gold or silver in its pure state are very soft, and should coins be made from these in their pure state, they would suffer loss and injury by abrasion, but the addition of a small quantity of alloy is found to overcome this, nor does it affect the beauty of the metals. In Tuscany the gold sequins are nearly pure, also the silver florins of Hanover. In the United States mint the practice is to imitate the true color of gold in the coinage by using an alloy of about nine-tenths of copper, one-tenth silver, that in 1000 ounces of standard gold there are 900 ounces of pure gold, 10 ounces of silver and 90 ounces

of copper. The word standard, as applied to coins, means the fineness and weight to which they are required by law to conform. The earliest coinage for America was in 1612, made for the Virginia company at the Somer's islands, now called Bermudas. The coin was of brass, with a picture of a hog on one side and the reverse was a ship under full sail firing a gun. In 1645 the assembly of Virginia provided by law for the coinage of copper pieces of 2 d., 3 d., 6 d. and 9d., but the law was never carried into effect. The earliest colonial coinage was in Massachusetts in May 1652; there was established "a mint house" in Boston. The order required the coinage of 12 pence, 6 pence, and 3 pence pieces; these coins are known to-day as the "pine-tree shilling." This mint existed about 34 years, but all the coins issued bear the dates 1652 and 1662, the same dies being used all the time. In the reign of William and Mary, copper coins were struck in England for New England and Carolina, having on the obverse an elephant and on the reverse, "God preserve New England, 1694," and "God preserve Carolina and the lord's proprietors, 1694." Lord Baltimore, also, sent coins from England to his colony in Maryland. In Vermont a mint was established in 1785, in the town of Rupert, and copper cents were issued; Connecticut followed the example of Vermont and established a mint the same year; this mint only lasted three years though. New Jersey authorized a copper coinage in 1786. In January, 1782, a plan for an American coinage was submitted to Congress by R. Morris, but nothing was done till 1787, when the "Fungo" cent was coined. On April 2, 1792, a code of laws was enacted for the establishment and regulation of the mint, under which, with only slight changes, the coinage was executed for 42 years. From then up to the present time, there have been only a few changes and those slight.

Philatelic.

—The first master of the posts in England, was appointed in 1516.

—It is said that a new series of stamps is about to come from Ecuador.

—From Brazil two new stamps have been issued. 300 reis. blue, and 500 reis. olive.

—The "War Stamps" that were issued by the different postmasters of the Southern States during the late war, are quite rare, and only to be found in private collections.

—The A. P. A. is doing a great deal of good in trying to let honest collectors know who the frauds are who infest our country.

—"Plain Talk," of Brooklyn, N. Y., has a "Philately Lighthouse" that dealers should study carefully, and maybe it would save them a great many dollars—at least much trouble.

—The Confederate! Baton Rouge 5 cent red and green; on entire original envelope; finely postmarked Nov. 2, 1861; very brilliant in color, and a perfect beauty in every way. Good margins. That in Sanford sale off envelopes brought \$50, and the last sold (Casey's sale, Feb. 9, 1887,) brought \$63. Sold in the Haines-Hamlen sale, New York, March 29th and 30th, 1887, for only \$26. Many other rare specimens were also offered, some bringing a fair price, others not so much.

—If the stamp collector would take one or more of the best publications on that subject, he would be more at home with his collection, feel more like collecting the new issues, and take more interest in the subject. But a great many will take their chance to get a sample copy of some paper, and then have the sand to send an exchange to the publisher and ask him to please have it in the next number, but, mind you, never send one cent for a year's subscription.

Do not forget to subscribe. Just think of it! Only 25 cents per year, and then get a premium worth that alone; or I will send this paper a whole year for five Indian arrow heads or two spear heads. Send me the names of your friends, and I will send them sample copy. Do it now.

EXCHANGES.

These columns are free to all, but subscribers will be given the preference. All exchanges must be in by the 15th of the month to insure insertion in next number.

I would like to exchange a collection of 50 first class birds' eggs, and other Natural History Specimens, for coins or cash. Please Write.

W. R. COE,
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100 different plain postmarks for a good specimen of any ore, papers, stamps or anything of their value.

ABRAM A. HALSEY,
Water Mill, Suffolk Co., N. Y.

I will send 12 fine old Philatelic papers, some 2 or 3 years old, for 4 good Indian arrow heads, or a dime of 1876.

F. A. THOMAS,
Mexico, N. Y.

For every genuine Cape of Good Hope (triangular), Heligoland, New Foundland or Liberia stamp, I will give a genuine U. S. 1857 issue 1 cent blue stamp.

RALPH MASON,
Box 5, Mt Holly, N. J.

A good Indian net sinker, for a mineral 2 inches long, not in my cabinet, with locality.

W. V. B. KIP,
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One fine specimen of petrified moss, for every fine Indian arrow head or curiosity sent me. First-class birds' eggs to exchange for Indian relics.

ARTHUR B. ROBERTS,
Weymouth, Ohio.

A 2 x 2 specimen of magnesia or petrified wood, for every 4 arrows sent me. Eggs, coins and sea curiosities, for mound builders' relics, an 1 eggs in sets.

F. M. KINNE,
Marion Co. Knoxville, Iowa.

U. S. Revenue, document, match, medicine, playing cards and U. S. Foreign postage stamps to exchange. Philatelic papers to exchange for others, or for stamps.

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FRED ROME,
Hudson, N. Y.

I have about 50 varieties of tin tags mounted on cards, 25 side blown eggs, 5 different sea curiosities, minerals, etc., for stamps, coins, Indian relics or curiosities.

W. P. ARNOLD,
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I will give a "Flying eagle" cent for every ten pieces of light colored silk, satin, plush or velvet for crazy work, or I will give Iowa mosses for pieces for crazy work.

HATTIE COFFELT,
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Rare U. S. and Foreign stamps, rare minerals, Indian relics and curiosities, for novels. Send lists. Will also give above for small seashells suitable for watch charms.

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AND CURIOSITIES.

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COMMON SENSE.

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SPECIAL RATES FOR LARGER SPACE.

Communications on any of the subjects treated in this paper, will be thankfully received.

All advertising matter must be in by the 15th of the month, to insure insertion in next number.

Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply.

Address all letters to the publisher, F. A. Thomas, Mexico, N. Y.

(Entered at the Post Office at Mexico as Second Class Matter.)

Vol. 1. MEXICO, MAY, 1887. No. 3.

Notes and Review.

Wanted, 2,000 subscribers. Oh! dear, what a mistake, I only want you.

I wish to exchange with every stamp, coin, or curiosity paper—send two copies please and then receive (some) "Common Sense" in return.

Agents wanted for this paper, a good cash commission will be paid. Send the names of your friends, who are interested in collecting, and I will send them a sample copy free.

The new 1887 price list of metals from W. H. Warner & Bros., received. About 68 different ones described, some in gold, others in silver, bronze, white metal, etc. A good and fine list.

I wish to return thanks to Messrs. Hollister Bros. for a pair of their Tidy Holders. They are ornamental as well as useful, and after you have had a pair in your house once, you would not do without them. Price post-paid 15 cents per pair.

Mr. W. F. Greany's large 32 page illustrated price-list at hand. You can find almost anything you wish, from the most rare coin or stamp to the Chinese coin. Do not fail to send for one of these lists. You will not be sorry when you see it.

"The Stamp Collector's Figaro" is at hand. It has been the cry of Philantests for a long time for some genuine stamp paper. Now they have got one and ought to subscribe, as it is worth all the price asked and much

more. Send 50 cents and receive this paper a whole year.

The "Agassiz Companion," published by W. H. Plank, Wyandotte, Kan., has been received. It is in its second year and does not look old at all. If you want to receive a first-class paper for a whole year, send 50 cents and have it come every month.

I call attention to the "adv." of McBride & Co., Nashville, Tenn. They are gentlemen in every sense of the word, at least in all my dealings with them, I have found them so, and cheerfully recommend them to any of the readers of this paper. Send to them for price list of Indian Relics.

Messrs. Wheeler & Clark have our thanks for the large box of sea curiosities sent us. The large star fish were fine, also all the other specimens. As Mr. Wheeler is away from home a great deal collecting, they can offer fine and rare specimens at a very low price.

Premiums.

I will give to all who send twenty-five cents for this paper a whole year, any one of the following: (Please remember that these specimens are large, perfect and fine and to buy them one at a time from my list, or any other dealer's, you would pay from ten to twenty-five cents per specimen. Sent back to you same day as your letter is received.)

1. A large shark's egg.
2. A large sea urchin.
3. A large spec. of asbestos.
4. A large spec. of cocolite.
5. A large spec. of copper ore.
6. A large spec. of silver ore.
7. A large spec. of gold ore.
8. Four good fossils.
9. Four spec. of Indian pottery.
10. Four good curiosities.
11. Four good minerals.
12. Twenty-five small sea shells.
13. Pine cone, California.
14. Chestnut burr.
15. My 14 page price list.

Send stamps or postal note, would rather have the latter. Send at once.

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VERY FINE INDIAN RELICS—NEW 1887.

PRICE LISTS JUST OUT—SENT FREE.

New Method of Preserving Birds.

When the bird is first killed, or soon afterwards, open the venter from the lower part of the breast bone down to the anus, with a pair of scissors, and extract the contents. This cavity immediately fill up with the following mixture, and then bring the wound together by a suture, so as to prevent the stuffing from coming out. The gullet or passage, fill, from the beak down to where the stomach lies, with the mixture fine ground, which must be forced down a little at a time by the help of a quill or wire; the head open near the root of the tongue with the scissors, and, after having turned out the brains, fill the cavity with the same. The bird thus filled must now be hung up by the legs to dry for two or three days, to let the spice settle; after which it may be placed in a frame to dry, in the same attitude as we usually see them alive. In this frame it must be held up by two threads, the one passing from the arms to the lower part of the back, and the other through the eyes; the ends of these threads are to brace the bird up in its proper attitude; fasten them to the side of the frame, and place it on a chip pill-box. It will now require no other support than a pin through each foot, fastened into the box. It must remain a month or two to dry. The eyes must be supplied by proportional glass beads fixed in with strong gum water. The mixture is: Common salt, one pound; alum, powdered, four ounces; ground pepper, two ounces; all blended together.

The age of an oyster may be reckoned by counting the lines in the groove of the hinge of the bivalve. These lines indicate the annual layers or shell growths.

It was a remark of Linnæus that three flies would consume a dead horse sooner than a lion could. He doubtless included the families of the three flies. A single fly will produce twenty thousand larvæ, each of which in a few days may be the parent of another twenty thousand, and thus they would soon devour an animal much larger than a horse.

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COMMON SENSE.

DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF COLLECTORS OF ALL CLASSES.

VOL. 1—No. 4.

MEXICO, N. Y., JUNE, 1887.

F. A. THOMAS, *Editor*.

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NO TRASH.

1,400 star fish at 3c. each, or 25c. per doz.
1,000 sea urchins at 5c. each, or 50c. per doz
2,000 shells, large, per pair, 5c., or 40c. "
3,000 " small, " 2c., or 15c. "
600 crabs' backs, at 5c. each, or 40c. per doz.
500 sharks' eggs, at 4c. each, or 35c. per doz.
100 horseshoe crabs, at 15c. each, or \$1.25 "
200 arrow's heads, Oregon (bird), 12c. each.
600 arrow's heads, Virginia (fine), 10c. each.
200 arrow's heads, Ohio (fine), 6c. each.
1,000 arrow heads (good), 5c. each.
12 fine and perfect arrows sent for 60c.
200 fine specimens of chalk flint, 4c.
200 fine specimens of red jasper, 4c.
200 fine specimens of asbestos, 4c.
200 fine specimens of coccolite, 4c.
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5 different specimens for only 15c.
10 different minerals, fine, 20c.
40 different minerals, very fine, 75c.
Mineral scarf pin, beautiful, 25c.
Chinese coins, 4c; Siamese coins, 4c.
Japan tempos, 400 years old (rare), 12c.
5 large U. S. cents, different dates (old), 25c.
10 good foreign coins, worth 60c., 30c.
5 foreign *silver* coins, very old, 1634, etc., 75c.
3 different medals—Washington, Independence Hall and Lincoln medal, all, 25c.
Chinese chop sticks, pair, 10c.
Chinese horn nuts, 4c.
Chinese newspapers, rare, 10c.
Chinese cacti nuts, 4c.
Old newspapers, 1733, 25c.; 1805, 12c.
Wood from old war ship New Orleans, war of 1812, polished, 3x4x $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, fine, 12c.
Hot Springs' crystals, two fine ones, 15c.
Rattle snakes' rattles, large, 20c.
Ostrich eggs, \$1.50.
10 different birds' eggs, worth \$1, 40c.
Florida moss, large package, 5c.
Bullets from Bull Run (genuine), 12c.
5 different bullets from diff. battlefields, 40c.
Alligator teeth or buffalo teeth (large), 12c.

Send 20c. for a package of 10 curiosities; worth by any list, 50c. Any order under 25c. must contain 5c. extra for postage. Any order of \$1.50 or more I will send "Common Sense" one year free. My large 12 page price list of coins, stamps, relics, etc., etc., sent with an order of 50c. or more. Give me a trial.

Yours very truly,

F. A. THOMAS,

Agents Wanted.

Mexico, N. Y.

The Star Fish.

BY "TED."

Nearly every person who ever went to the sea shore have seen a great many of these funny creatures, but for those who live inland I will try to give such some idea what a star fish is like. First, it belongs to the order of animals called asterioids, well exemplified by the common species of the New England coasts, the five fingered Jack of the sailors. The body is depressed and divided into rays like a star; the upper surface is studded with rough knobs, varying in color with the species, but generally reddish or of a light yellow. Between these little knobs are the openings of many very minute tubes for the passage of water in and out of the body; the skeleton consists of porous calcareous pieces, movable articulated, and extending on the lower surface from the mouth in the center to the ends of the rays. The mouth is a queer arrangement opening direct into the stomachal cavity, from which little tubes extend to the extremity of each arm, the stomach can be averted over their food and then be turned back again; the mouth is very dilatable, and will admit large mollusks with the shell, the hard parts being ejected after the soft portions are digested. Perhaps you could never find two star fish that were just alike, as there is so great a variety in the spreading, division and sub-division of the arms, but all are arranged after the general shape of a star. The arms can be bent in any direction according to the will of the animal, as they are full of muscles. They have a nervous system arranged around the mouth, sending its branches to all of the arms. The sense of touch is very acute. Rymer Jones says, star fishes may be considered as mere walking stomachs, their office in the economy of nature being to devour all

kinds of garbage which would otherwise accumulate on the shores. They eat also living creatures, mollusks, and even small fish, and are thought to be very destructive to oysters. They are never used as food for man, but in many places are gathered in large quantities for manure. In size they vary from an inch to over a foot in diameter. They are found from the Trenton limestone of the lower Lillurian epoch down to the present time.

Notes.

The present circulation of legal tender notes in the United States is upwards of \$346,000,000.

Besides the regular U. S. issue, several of the States have issued revenue stamps for their own use. Among them being California, who leads the list with 289 varieties.

The development of bituminous coal lands in Virginia within the past few years has been very rapid. Up to within a few years the coal production of Virginia was comparatively limited, but estimates are from 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 tons for this year.

Mr. L. W. Durbin, the popular stamp dealer and publisher, has a fine collection, of United States stamps only. It contains many rarities, amongst which might be mentioned Baltimore, St. Louis, New York, etc., on original letters and a genuine original Franklin carrier, and many others equally desirable.

The city of London comprises 700 square miles, and has a population of 5,000,000. It has 1,000 ships and 9,000 sailors in its port every day. It has 9,000 miles of streets, and builds 9,000 houses every day.

What wonderful changes are wrought by the march of time! It is stated that famous sermon that John Knox preached in Edinburgh in 1565, "for the which he was inhibited preaching for a season," was sold not long since for \$2,075.

Directions for Collecting Birds' Eggs.

Collect all eggs in sets and preserve nest with set whenever practicable. When nests built in bushes, or among reeds and rushes or hanging from small branches of trees are collected, cut off the portion of the bush, reeds or branch to which the nest is attached instead of tearing it away. A SET consists of all the eggs found in the nest.

Each egg of a set must be marked with the same number. For example: Each egg of the first set found should be marked 1; of the second 2, and so on. If the nest is also collected, a piece of paper having the SAME NUMBER as that on the eggs must be securely fastened to it. Eggs must be blown through one small hole in the side. After drilling the hole, hold the egg over a basin of water, hole down, and blow into the egg through the blow-pipe; after emptying, rinse thoroughly by forcing water into the shell and place on clean blotting paper to drain. Mark each egg with a number corresponding to the Smithsonian catalogue and set mark as above. If the egg is far advanced in incubation, drill a large hole, and with fine, sharp-pointed scissors cut the embryo into small pieces and extract with embryo hooks.

Use a soft, sharp-pointed lead pencil in marking eggs, never ink, and write nothing but number on the egg.

ALWAYS BE SURE what species of bird the nest belongs to before taking it, as doubtful sets are of no value. If the name of the bird owning the nest is unknown, try to shoot or snare the bird and cut off the head, wing, tail and leg. Rub some powdered arsenic into the flesh and wrap in paper, marking with the same number as on the eggs and nest.

Pack eggs for sending away in cotton batting, wrapping each egg separately in a piece of batting, and where the nests are taken, place the eggs in their nests filling up the nest with cotton. Be sure that the eggs do not touch each other. Put some cotton in the bottom of a WOODEN box and put in a layer of eggs, then cover with cotton and put in more

eggs, and so on till within a couple of inches of the top, when fill the box with cotton and put on the cover. If you have nests to pack wrap each in paper and place on bottom filling between them with cotton and then put in eggs which have no nests.

EXCHANGES.

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Vol. 1. MEXICO, JUNE, 1887. No. 4.

With Editorial Quill.

The man who is into one kind of business for one year, into another the next, and something else the third, generally never amounts to very much. He has no fixed purpose. Just so in collecting. If you think you would like Philately, Mineralogy, Oology, Numismatology, Archaeology, Conchology or any other branch you may fancy, first find out which one you like and then go ahead and collect. Or, if you want to form a general collection, this is all right. But the point I want you to see is this: Do not collect stamps for a month, exchange these for tin tags, the tin tags for post marks, and the post marks for something else. Is there any science about it? Do you take any pleasure in it? Or do you do it just for the purpose of exchanging? You might collect in this way a lifetime and then not have a collection of any thing. For instance, suppose you think you would like Philately, and after a fair trial you find, or think you find nothing in it, then you have a right to abandon it. But the idea of collecting one thing for one month, something else the next, and the third something else, is all foolish. You spend both your time and money, and have nothing to show for it, when if you would collect in the proper way, you would have a fine collection and one that you would not be ashamed of.

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VOL. 1—No. 5.

MEXICO, N. Y., JULY, 1887.

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perfect transparent crystals, sometimes 5 inches in length, and containing drops of water; these are quite rare and are worth from one to five dollars per specimen. St. Lawrence county, also Jefferson county, are famous for the crystals found in its iron ore mines, many beautiful clusters coming from Antwerp. Clear crystalline quartz, called rock crystal, was in former times highly valued for ornamental objects, being cut into vases, cups, lusters, etc., many of which are still preserved as curiosities. In the museum of Louvre are great numbers of them, some belonging to the times of the Greeks and Romans. Very transparent specimens from Brazil are made into spectacle lenses called "Brazilian pebbles;" they are superior to glass on account of their great hardness. In Switzerland quartz veins which occasionally yield rich cavities of crystals are regularly mined for this product, a ready sale being found for all that is produced. From Madagascar large clear masses are received, which sell from one to ten dollars per pound, when cut and set by jewellers. We have the white topaz, and sometimes called California diamonds. Pure quartz is largely employed in the manufacture of glass, and is commonly obtained for this purpose in the form of sand. So we see, one of our most common minerals, that we can pick up in any field, is used for many useful purposes, and that we could hardly get along without it.

It is said that a shop on any of the main thoroughfares of London can afford to cheat every customer, because the crowd of strangers passing the door will continue to furnish new victims year after year.

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A Fine Collection.

BY F. A. T.

No doubt one of the best, if not the very best private collection of birds' eggs, nests, and skins, that could be found in New York State, is owned by D. D. Stone, Oswego, N. Y. Mr. Stone is a gentleman in every sense of the word, about thirty years old, and has been a collector for over fifteen years. The collection proper, contains the eggs of nearly every bird found in North America, and in great many cases the nest and skin, also the skins of several hundred small animals. He has them beautifully arranged in different cabinets, each family by itself, and can tell you all about the different birds, their habits, their nests, where you would be most likely to find them, and in fact he is a walking encyclopædia on birds. Some people say there is no science about Oology, but let them get interested in it once, and then see what they say. One specimen in particular is very attractive, this being a common large black bull frog. This frog was caught by Mr. Stone in the act of swallowing a cherry bird, which he had almost accomplished, just the tail and wings of the bird can be seen. The frog had caught the bird no doubt when it was drinking from the creek. I could tell you of many more very rare specimens, but space will not permit. All I can say is that to appreciate this wonderful collection is to see it. Mr. Stone's address is Cor. E. 10th and Oneida Sts., Oswego, N. Y. Publishers send copies of their papers.

Battle Relics

BY C. L. WALSH, CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

The battle fields around Chattanooga, Tenn., such as Lookout Mt., Mission Ridge, and Chickamauga, afford the relic hunter splendid chances to get a collection of war relics. You can find bomb shells, cannon balls, grape shot, bits, buckles, gun stocks, bayonets, and many other implements of war. The trees growing on the fields at the time of the war, and now when cut down are quite full of bullets, shot and shell. Chain shot are the most rare of all relics; it is a mystery to many where they are today, for of all the chain shot that was fired only a very few are ever found. The relics are going away very fast,

as every year crowds of G. A. R. men, who come to look once more at the places that were made famous by the war of the rebellion, carry home all they can find. Lookout Mountain battlefield is three miles square, Mission Ridge six miles square, and Chickamauga, the largest, is eight miles square, and were all things considered, the battle of Chickamauga was the hardest battle fought in the rebellion.

EXCHANGES.

These columns are free to all, but subscribers will be given the preference. All exchanges must be in by the 15th of the month to insure insertion in next number.

This paper a whole year, post-paid, for five Indian arrow heads, or two spear heads. One hundred different Foreign stamps for four arrow heads. Long list of curiosities and relics to exchange. Collectors send lists.

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Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply. Address all letters to the publisher, F. A. Thomas, Mexico, N. Y.

(Entered at the Post Office at Mexico as Second Class Matter.)

Vol. 1. MEXICO, JULY, 1887. No. 5.

A Kind Offer.

Prof. G. K. Green, of New Albany, Ind., offers a collection of 35 different specimens of fossil corals, the average size of the specimens are 3 x 4 inches, and catalogued from 35 to 75 cents per specimen, making a collection worth at least \$20.00. This whole and rare collection given to the person who sends the most subscribers to Common Sense before January 1st, 1888. The specimens are in my possession, and are very beautiful, no small or poor trash that he could not use, but large and first class specimens. When sending subscriptions mention the prize offer, and I will give you credit for what you send. Every collector, young or old, should try for this; remember you get a premium, a good paper for one year, and a chance of getting a \$20.00 collection, all for 25 cents. Let me hear from you. Yours truly,

THE EDITOR.

Notes and Review.

Edgar J. Klock has taken a half interest in the "Mohawk Standard," of Delta, N. Y. The paper will be enlarged to eight pages.

"The Collector's Journal" is announced for July from Brooklyn, N. Y. We have seen the design for the cover, and it is very neat.

Mr. Collins, formerly editor of the "Stamp World," is now practicing law at 64 W. Third St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

"The Germantown Philatelist" is publishing a very interesting series on

the "Postal Regulations of the Confederate States of America."

How many young collectors have ever seen the U. S. two-cent postal card! And yet it is not particularly scarce.

"Hubbard's Premium Coin List" at hand. It is a fine little book, and ought to be in the hands of every coin collector. Price 10c.

"Handy Book for Collectors," by W. K. Moorehead, Xenia, O., is a very useful work for the archæologist. Twenty-four pages, full of interesting matter with a number of illustrations. Price 10c.

Many papers have been received, the editors will please except my thanks for the same. Will be pleased to exchange with all.

Do not forget the great offer by Prof. G. K. Green; the specimens are first class in every way, large, fine, and rare. Every collector should try for this collection.

Thomas Alexander, in his book entitled "Game birds of the United States," says that wild ducks, unaided by the wind; fly from sixty to one hundred miles an hour, and that the blue-winged teal, "going down the wind at the top of his speed, will make fully one hundred and fifty miles an hour, possibly more." The swiftest bird on the wind is the frigate bird, a sort of nautical bird of prey. Sailors believe that it can start at the peep of dawn from the coast of Africa and, following the trade winds, land on the American coast before sunset. It can undoubtedly fly more than two hundred miles an hour, but we do not know of any trustworthy record of the speed of which it is capable.—*Golden Days.*

PREMIUMS.

I will give to all who send twenty-five cts. for this paper a whole year, any one of the following: (Please remember that these specimens are large, perfect and fine, and to buy them one at a time from my list, or any other dealer's, you would pay from ten to twenty-five cents per specimen. Sent back to you same day as your letter is received.)

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TOWSON, MD.

Vegetable Instinct.

BY F. C. JOHNSON.

If a pail of water be placed near a pumpkin-stem it will, in a short time, draw itself near to the water, and in a few hours will be found with one of its leaves in it.

If a pole be placed near a young convolvulus, or scarlet runner, it will find it, although the pole be shifted daily. If, after it has twined some distance up the pole, it be unwound, and twined in the opposite direction, it will return to its original position or die in the attempt; yet, notwithstanding, if two of the plants grow near to each other, and have no stake around which they can entwine, one of them will alter the direction of the spiral, and they will twine around each other.

A potato-vine has been known to travel nearly two hundred feet in a dark cellar, and to rise, against the law of gravitation, to find a ray of light coming from a small window above.

Duhamel placed some kidney beans in a cylinder of moist earth; after a short time they commenced to generate, of course sending the plume towards the light, and the root down into the soil. After a few days the cylinder was turned one-fourth round, and again and again this was repeated, until an entire revolution of the cylinder was completed. The beans were then taken out of the earth, and it was found that both the plume and the radicle had bent to accommodate themselves to every revolution, and, the one in its efforts to ascend perpendicularly, and the other descend, they had formed a perfect spiral.

—Do not kill the mole until satisfied whether it is an enemy or a friend. Sometimes the mole destroys a large number of cutting worms and slugs.

Any one wishing a good collection of Florida curiosities should write to D. A. Fradenburgh, Orwell, N. Y. Enclose stamp for reply. See adv.

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VOL. 1—No. 6.

MEXICO, N. Y., OCTOBER, 1887.

F. A. THOMAS, *Editor*.

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A FEW IDEAS ON SPECIMEN COLLECTING.

BY E. G. WARD.

A great many people, both old and young, rich and poor, are engaged in collecting specimens of interest, either to gratify their own tastes, to further the interests of science, or for profit. We can see the greed for acquiring wealth by speculation in these relics, coins, etc., as well as in any other line of business. These people are the slaves of the "*Almighty Dollar*," and are a source of *annoyance* to the collector, who gets these things together so that he may derive pleasure in studying them. There are many interesting things that people are engaged in collecting, such as botanical specimens, minerals, birds eggs, stamps, Indian relics, coins, paper money, etc. Some make a specialty of one or more of these branches named; others collect in a general way; whatever of interest they find is placed in their cabinet as a specimen.

Coin collecting, either in a general way or making a specialty of one or more of its branches, is an interesting and instructive study. For instance, the person who collects foreign copper coins, and then will refer to the histories of the countries using them, to find out something about the sovereigns whose names and likenesses are on these coins. Before he is through with his researches, he will have a fair idea of each country and its people under the different rulers. He will notice that all countries but the United States have the likenesses and names of the different rulers on the obverse of their coins, while the United States does not.

He will naturally ask the question, "Why is this?" He will refer to his histories, and he will find that our forefathers, when they commenced to frame and form the Constitution and Laws, so *thoroughly hated* monarchical forms of government and everything pertaining to them, that they opposed everything that might lead to harboring such views. Thus the Constitution forbids the use of such titles as earl, duke, lord, etc. When designs were being made for our coins, those were rejected that had Washington's head on the obverse of the design, because it looked as though the designers were following in the footsteps of these detested institutions. So the female head, an emblematic figure, called the Goddess of Liberty, was adopted, which has been used ever since, with an occasional change in the style of dressing the hair, position, and finally changed to a seated figure, etc.

When we study all about our earlier issues, the issues of some of the thirteen original states, the changes that have been made in the style of coins, their purity, the new one added, the old ones that have been discontinued, and the reasons for the changes, we then can begin to realize how much pleasure and knowledge can be obtained in collecting the coins of our own country. The collector will find many dates among our coins that are very difficult to obtain. If he hasn't the means to buy them of some reliable dealer, it may take years of patient searching to find them, but the satisfaction of finding them himself will more than repay the trouble of waiting. Therefore, don't be in a hurry to complete your sets of dates, because anything easily obtained is not appreciated as much as that which has taken both time and study to master.

INDIANS AND MOUND BUILDERS.

BY GEORGE MOORE.

Every paper in treating the subject of archæology classify Indians and Mound Builders as two distinct races. In my experience, covering a space of fifteen years of active collecting, in which time I have opened mounds in Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, the shell heaps of Florida, Louisiana, numerous mounds in Nebraska and Colorado, explored the ancient cliff dwellers' houses in Arizona and New Mexico, in which time thousands of relics have been found and preserved; but in all this time, with careful study and with careful comparison of all relics found, could enough evidence be found to separate the Indian from the Mound Builders.

Mounds in Ohio show signs of being very ancient. In some small pieces of bones are found that have resisted the ravages of time for ages. Axes, pestles, arrow and spear heads are also found, along with burnt corn, showing that the soil was tilled to some extent. As a general thing the stone implements found in the southern states are ruder than those found in north or western states.

In Oregon and Montana are found the crowning point of mechanical skill, shown in the work of the Aborigine, while I, in opening a mound in western Nebraska, found arrow heads, spears, ornaments and pottery of the finest workmanship, in the same mound were the bones of a beaver, human bones, several bullets and gun flints, dozens of mussels' shells, etc., and in one instance an ornament was found in representation of a hawk, so natural that nothing like it was ever seen before. Now, at the same time, if in the the same mound with such work as this are found leaden bullets and gun flints, what are we to think?

[Can not some one answer Mr. Moore through this paper?—ED.]

COMMON SENSE a year for 25 cts.

STALACTITES AND STALAGMITES.

BY F. C. JOHNSON.

Water impregnated with carbonic acid is able to dissolve lime, and as all rain and surface water contains more or less carbonic acid, it takes up, as it filters down through the earth, a certain amount of lime, which it carries in solution. When this solution reaches the roof of a cave it seeks the first crack or opening through which it oozes and accumulates upon the wall inside. The liquid now evaporates, leaving a deposit. This is augmented by continued evaporations, until finally it appears as a small suspended icicle. This crystalline structure, however, has a hollow space about twelve inches in length at the top. The cause of this is explained as follows:

The first drop evaporates around the outside, leaving a deposit of carbonate of lime in the form of a ring; as more of the solution flows down over the outside of this, one ring after another is formed, each one being smaller than the one behind, until the formation terminates in a point. This formation is called a stalactite when it grows down from the roof, but it often happens that the solution drops upon the floor of the cave and a similar formation is formed but extending upward; such an upright cone is called a stalagmite.

Frequently a stalactite and a stalagmite will meet, thus apparently forming a column supporting a roof. Sometimes the solution enters the roof of a cave through a long fissure in the rock, and a thin stalactite extended like a sheet will be formed.

—Thousands of sparrows were killed during a recent storm at Wilmington, Delaware. It is reported that, the morning after the storm, they were picked up in the streets of the city by the bushel.

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W. P. ARNOLD, Shannock, R. I.

The Vicksburg Daily Citizen,

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FALL OF AN AEROLITE.

A phenomenon unequalled in the annals of astronomic science occurred at Clayton, Ga., recently, which from the light it throws upon questions of the habitability of the other planets, will prove of great value to science. About 7:45 o'clock there fell near the town a spherical metal ball or aerolite, on the surface of which appear graven characters which give conclusive evidence of its having been molded by intelligent hands. Dr. Seyres, in whose possession the wonder now is, says:

"I was returning from a patient's house, situated some seven miles from the town, where I had spent the latter part of the afternoon, and was ascending a long hill, when my horse suddenly pricked up his ears, and on glancing ahead, my eyes were dazzled by a brilliant white flash resembling a lightning stroke, and immediately following came a sharp hiss as of escaping steam. I knew that an aerolite had fallen, for had the flash been electrical there would have been a clap of thunder. Driving on up the hill, I noticed that steam was issuing from the ground some few rods back from the road, and on hastening to the spot found a hole about four inches in diameter, from which arose considerable heated vapor. I drove home as rapidly as possible, and taking a pick and shovel returned to the spot. After half an hour's hard digging I came upon the object of my search at a depth of about five feet. It was still too hot to handle, but I succeeded in getting it to my carriage by lifting it on the shovel. I noticed that it was remarkably heavy, but not until I reached my barn and removed the adhering soil did I realize what a prize I had. Instead of a rough mass of meteoric iron there appeared a smooth, perfect sphere of steel-blue metal, with polished surface and engraved with pictures and writings. There, upon the surface of the strange ball, was a deeply-graven circle, within which was a four-pointed star, a representation of a bird reptile resembling in a measure our extinct archæpteryx, and a great number of small figures resembling those used in modern short-hand. The metal of which the ball was composed was unlike anything I had ever seen,

being about as hard as copper and entirely infusible in my Bunsen blow-pipe. I filed off some small bits and sent them to a chemist, who made the following report:

Sir: I have made a spectroscopic analysis of the filings you sent. The metal is fusible only in the electric arc. It is a new element. Examined by the spectroscope its vapors gives three fine yellow lines to the left of the D line of sodium, a broad green one to the right of the line of barium, and an innumerable number of very fine purple ones.

H. RANDOLPH STEVENS,
Analytical Chemist.

THE TARANTULA.

The Tarantula weaves no web, but captures his prey by springing upon, grasping and biting it to death. It is no doubt venomous. Little is definitely known of its habits. The Tarantula is not socially inclined. Numerous as they are in certain portions of California, Colorado, Arizona and Mexico, two Tarantulas in company would be a rare sight. A characteristic, so to speak, of this creature, is, that the male, which is twice the size of the female, is belligerent to the last degree, provoking a quarrel with any and everything crossing its path.

The nest is a wonderful little castle, with its beveled-edged and closely-fitting door is the work of the female Tarantula, which differs almost wholly from the male, which makes no such provision. While he is fierce and warlike, she is shy and retiring, never going far from home, the door of which is always left open when she is out. At the approach of danger, with a bound she is inside, closing the door after her, waiting until her nerves are quieted or she comes forth to be slain by her foe, the "Killer" as it is called. A most remarkable thing about this Killer is, that he is relentless and untiring in his destruction of the Tarantula. * * If he chances to discover the female inside her house with closed door, he raps until she opens it a trifle to ascertain "who's there," when the crafty fellow inserts his arm to prevent her closing it again, continuing to pound away until, in sheer desperation or madness, Madam Tarantula throws open the door and rushes out to receive a thrust which quickly ends her existence. The killer has golden wings and deep blue colored body.—*Tammen's Catalogue.*

Curiosity Collectors! *←

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Every Collector should have one of the different colored

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The Sand is put up in bottles, with ten colors in each bottle, and makes a very pretty curiosity from the famous and romantic waterfall of "Minnehaha."

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I have a very fine printing outfit—press, type, etc.—for sale; or I will exchange it for a collection of Indian relics, minerals or curiosities. Said press, etc., are worth \$40.

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A twelve slide magic lantern to exchange for the best offer of almost anything.

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Fine minerals, for the same. All correspondence promptly answered. Please send lists.

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This paper sent a whole year, postpaid, to any one who will send five Indian arrow heads.

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I will give four Youths' Companions or two Golden Days for every 100 plain, square-cut post marks sent me.

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Thirty tin tags for a Scott or Durbin stamp catalogue: 370 for an International Album.

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Thirty different Foreign stamps, 25 post marks, or 4 nice sea shells, for each Philatelic paper sent me. Fine specimens of Geodes for stamps.

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Books, papers and bracket designs, for birds' eggs, stamps or Indian relics.

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Fine Indian relics, for U. S. coins or stamps. Send lists.

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Five good Chinese coins, for every V nickel without cents.

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ALLEGED SUICIDE OF SCORPIONS.

Professor A. G. Bourne has made a number of experiments on three species of scorpions found at Madras, with the idea of determining whether the popular notion that scorpions can commit suicide is true. He finds that it is undoubtedly physically impossible for a scorpion to sting itself in a vulnerable place, and when one is placed in very unpleasant circumstances it not unfrequently lashes its tail about and causes actual penetration of the sting. But the poison of a scorpion is quite powerless to kill the same individual or another of the same or even of another species. Two scorpions, when fighting, repeatedly sting one another with little, if any, effect, the stronger killing the weaker by tearing it to pieces. The poison may be pressed out of the sting with the fingers or a pair of forceps, when it is found to be of a milky white fluid, with a very pungent smell resembling that of formic acid.—Scientific American.

COMMON SENSE.

F. A. THOMAS, - - - EDITOR.

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Letters of inquiry must contain stamp for reply. Address all letters to the publisher, F. A. Thomas, Mexico, N. Y.

(Entered at the Post Office at Mexico as Second Class Matter.)

Vol. 1. MEXICO, OCTOBER, 1887. No. 6.

A KIND OFFER.

Prof. G. K. Green, of New Albany, Ind., offers a collection of 35 different specimens of fossil corals, the average size of the specimens are 3x4 inches, and catalogued from 35 to 75 cents per specimen, making a collection worth at least \$20.00. This whole and rare collection given to the person sending the most subscribers to COMMON SENSE before January 1st, 1888. The specimens are in my possession, and are very beautiful; no small or poor trash that he could not use, but large and first-class specimens. When sending subscriptions mention the prize offer, and I will give you credit for what you send. Every collector, young or old, should try for this. Remember you get a premium, a good paper for one year, and a chance of getting a \$20.00 collection, all for 25 cents. Let me hear from you. Yours truly,

THE EDITOR.

NOTES AND REVIEW.

—Remember, this a large eight page paper, and only twenty-five cents per year. Subscribe.

—Do not forget to read the exchanges that are in this number, for you will find some very good ones.

—Every subscriber can have an exchange published each month if he wishes. Send your exchange along with your subscription.

—"The Buckeye State Collector" is a good paper, and ought to live long. By the way, if a person thinks it is only fun to publish a paper, let them try it and see.

—"The Youths' Leisure Hour" is a new one from Boonville, N. Y. Twelve pages, full of good reading matter, and worth the price asked—35 cents per year.

—"The Stamp Collector's Figaro" is a live paper. Editor Voute, they say, is only 17 years old, "but he gets there, just the same."

—Philatelists may look for some good articles on Philately next issue. This is the only sample copy you will receive, and if you wish this paper to come one year, send only 25 cents (postal note.)

—Remember to buy your stamps of an old and reliable dealer. Such a person is found in Mr. I. W. Risdon, Cambridgeport, Mass. Mr. R. has been in the business many years.

—Mr. W. K. Moorhead, Xenia, Ohio, the well known archaeologist, has sold his large stock of Indian relics to Mr. Joseph Wigglesworth, of Wilmington, Delaware.

—Do not forget the prize offer by Prof. G. K. Green. The specimens are very fine, and every collector should try for this great offer. Some one will get it—why not you?

PHILATELIC.

BY "TED."

—It is said there are 500,000 stamp collectors in the U. S. If there are, the "fools" (?) are quite a number.

—When you wish to buy any stamps, do not buy them of a person who advertises a stamp worth \$2.00 for 15 cents, for it is counterfeit no doubt. Go to some dealer who has been in the business long enough to have a name of dealing in genuine stamps.

—Many young collectors will get counterfeit stamps in their collections, and not know it at all, when, if they would take two or three stamp papers, and read them carefully, they would find out the difference between a fraud and a genuine stamp.

PREMIUMS.

I will give to all who send twenty-five cents for this paper a whole year any one of the following: (Please remember that these specimens are large, perfect and fine, and to buy them one at a time from my list, or any other dealer's, you would pay from ten to twenty-five cents per specimen. Sent back to you same day as your letter is received.

1, a large shark's egg; 2, a large sea urchin; 3, a large spec. of asbestos; 4, a large spec. of coccolite; 5, a large spec. of copper ore; 6, a large spec. of silver ore; 7, a large spec. of gold ore; 8, four good fossils; 9, four spec. of Indian pottery; 10, four good curiosities; 11, four good minerals; 12, twenty-five small sea shells; 13, pine cone, California; 14, chestnut burr; 15, my 14 page price list.

Send stamps or postal note; would rather have the latter. Send at once.

FOSSILS.

A large package of Crinoid Stems, Petrified Shells and Calamites, mixed, sent post-paid for

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Price list of curiosities, etc., FREE.

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ALLIGATOR TEETH,

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Rattle Snake's Rattles,

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ALL SENT POSTPAID,

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CHAS. G. WOODWORTH,

Box 3003, DENVER, COL.

SUBSCRIBE. 25 CENTS.

BIRDS IN THEIR NESTS.

In the exhibit of the Museum of Natural History the past summer were eighteen groups of birds, which make their homes some portion of the year in the city or within fifty miles of New York. Some of them are to be found in Central Park. Others were taken on the hills or along the coast of Long Island; most of them from Westchester county, but several of the rarer groups are only to be found in the marshes and deeper woods of New Jersey. The most interesting feature of these groups is that they do not simply represent stuffed birds under a glass case, but in each instance the bird is preserved in a life-like attitude, and its nest, eggs or young birds, and the tree or moss amid which its home was made, are reproduced: In examining them, one has before him not a picture but a scrap of nature itself. In one instance, that of the field sparrow, the birds have built their home on a bog in the long grass by the side of a running stream. A part of the bog was brought away bodily, and with it the imprint of a cow's hoof close beside the nest, which the animal narrowly missed crushing when she came down to the stream to drink.

The work of securing the birds and preparing them was done by Jeanness Richardson, the naturalist, who has charge of the laboratory of the museum. The foliage which looks so real is reproduced from the natural specimens by Mrs. E. S. Mogridge, who was connected with the Kensington museum in England, but is now engaged by the museum here. Mr. Richardson is an enthusiast in his work. He knows no keener enjoyment than searching out the home of some species to add to his collection. During the summer his search was taken up with a search for ten more groups to add to the collection.

"Hunting for specimens," Mr. Richardson said, with a sparkle in his eye, "is the rarest sport I know

of, especially when the specimens are the smallest of all birds, and it is a particular species of them that you want. At first thought it would seem quite impossible to trace the humming birds you see flashing about the honeysuckle home to their nests. They buzz and flash like a meteor, and they are gone. Then there are half a dozen varieties of sparrows, which to the general observer all look alike, but here are several varieties in the groups I have collected, and when you look at them closely you will see that there is a wide difference. Of course you don't often get a chance to approach so near them when they are alive and in the fields. The habits of the several species are just as unlike as their appearance. One variety always makes its nest near the water on the ground, and another always under some overhanging bank or in the roots of an old tree.

"Do you see this pair with the nest under the bank? That is a Louisiana water thrush. It is rather a rare bird in this section, but a few of them get up here along the coast every year. In the winter they go down into the West Indies, Southern Mexico and Central America. They are beautiful singers, but are not often heard because their homes are always deep in the woodland thickets, where they are not often intruded upon by human beings. I came on this male quite by accident, and it was a long hunt of nearly a week before I found the nest and secured both the birds. I was looking for another kind of bird, the red-breasted grosbeak, that is a powerful singer up in the new part of Westchester, when I heard the male thrush singing. I caught a good glimpse of him and recognized what he was. I followed him some distance and then lost him for the day. The next day I found him again and traced him down to a little stream, but I could get no further clue to him. For several days I brought my lunch and sat down on the bank and watched the little fellow. I could

have shot him any time, but that would have done no good, as I wanted the nest. He seemed to know it and would alight on a branch almost within arm's reach and sing with all his might and then dart out of sight. How did I get him? Why, at last I examined the bank, and right under the very spot where I had eaten my luncheon was the nest hidden away. The female was sitting upon it with the four white eggs spotted with brown, as you see. It was easy to take the birds then, though I felt it a pity to do so. I cut out a piece of the bank, and there it is, the genuine Westchester soil that you see there."

"Do you use a shot gun to secure the birds?"

"Yes, with the smallest kind of shot, hardly larger than mustard seed, and a light charge of powder. The small birds, like the phoebes or the wrens, would be torn to pieces by larger shot. When I cannot carry away the surroundings of the nests I photograph them and take notes for their reproduction in the laboratory. It is quite easy to get the branch of an apple tree or a dogwood on which Mrs. Mogridge has made such lifelike blossoms. The robins, too, were easy to get. Those cardinals I found in Central Park and got a permit to take them. They are very shy. A pair of them escaped in the park four or five years ago and they remain there summer and winter. There are about a dozen pair of them now. That little fellow is the oven bird, so called from its dome-shaped nest built on the ground, roofed over and with an entrance on one side. That little brown fellow singing to his mate is the 'Politician.' I found him up near Hartsdale, Westchester, and there was a piece of the *Tribune* in his nest. He gets his name from his habit of picking up bits of newspaper to weave in his nest. In the winter he goes down the Gulf as far as Guatemala. The largest birds in the group are the clapper rails, a kind of snipe. I found them in the course of a hunt down on Long

Island for the seaside sparrow. You see how these rails make their nests of eel grass and reeds. The nests are only found in the dense salt marshes. The birds have little Indian trails to the nests through the tall grass, but it is difficult to find them. They lay as many as twelve creamy buff eggs. Their harsh clattering notes give them their name, and they live in the marshes summer and winter."

THE SILVER THREE CENT PIECE.

BY JAY COOK.

On the obverse of the silver three cent piece is a shield, in the center of a six-pointed star. On the reverse the letter C with III within, with three small stars around the C. The first one issued was in 1851, it being the only date which the U. S. mint at New Orleans, La., issued. The 1852 and 1853 pieces were issued at Philadelphia, Pa., and are the same design as the 1851 piece.

In 1854 two outlines were placed around the star and an olive branch above and three arrows below the III.

The pieces of 1855 to 1859 were the same as 1854, but the piece of 1859 is smaller with only one outline around the star and a smaller date. There is no difference until 1873, when their coinage was discontinued by Congress, much to the delight of the public.

Those of 1855, 1863, 1864 and all after 1865, are quite rare, as only a few were coined. Only proofs were issued in 1873.

Subscribe for COMMON SENSE.

—Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes, when in Washington, requested the Post Office Department to send her all the strange stamps which they handled, and her collection is the largest in Ohio. When a person starts collecting stamps the craze grows upon him, and is said to be as powerful as the opium habit.
—P. T.

Kuriosity Kollectors

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Specimens that are Fine and Beautiful

FOR A LITTLE MONEY?

IF YOU DO, I CAN PLEASE YOU!



1,400 star fish at 5c. each.
1,000 sea urchins at 5c. each or 50c. per doz.
2,000 shells, large, per pair, 5c. or 40c. "
3,000 " small, " 2c. or 15c. "
600 crabs' backs, at 5c. each, or 40c. per doz.
500 sharks' eggs, at 4c. each, or 35c. per doz.
100 horseshoe crabs, at 15c. each, or \$1.25 "
200 arrow's heads, Oregon (bird), 12c. each.
200 arrow's heads, Ohio (fine), 6c. each.
600 arrow's heads, Virginia (fine), 10c. each.
1,000 arrow heads (good), 5c. each.
12 fine and perfect arrows sent for 60c.
300 fine specimens chalk flint, 4c.
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200 fine specimens of cocolite, 4c.
200 fine specimens of copper ore, 4c.
5 different specimens for only 15c.
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40 different minerals, very fine, 75c.
Mineral scarf pin, beautiful, 25c.
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5 large U. S. cents, different dates (old), 25c.
10 good foreign coins, worth 60c., 30c.
5 foreign silver coins, very old, 1634, etc., 75c.
3 different medals—Washington, Independence Hall and Lincoln Medal, all 25c.
Chinese chop sticks, pair, 10c.
Chinese horn nuts, 4c.
Chinese newspapers, rare, 10c.
Chinese cacti nuts, 4c.
Old newspapers, 1783, 25c.; 1805, 12c.
Wood from old war ship New Orleans, war of 1812, polished, 3x4 1/2 x 1/2 in., fine, 12c.
Hot Springs' crystal, two fine ones, 15c.
Rattle snakes' rattles, large, 20c.
Ostrich eggs, \$1.50.
10 different birds' eggs, worth \$1, 40c.
Florida moss, large package, 5c.
Bullets from Bull Run (genuine), 12c.
5 diff. bullets from diff. battlefields, 40c.
Alligator teeth or buffalo teeth (large), 12c.



Send 30c. for a package of ten curiosities; worth by any list 50c. Any order under 25c. must contain 5c. extra for postage. Any order of \$1.50 or more I will send COMMON SENSE one year free. My large twelve page price list of coins, stamps, relics, etc., etc. sent with an order of 50c. Give me a trial.

Yours very truly,

F. A. THOMAS,

Agents Wanted.

Mexico, N. Y.

SETS. ♦ CHEAP!

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Baden Land Post, 3 var..... 5c
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Sheets of stamps on approval at 33 1/3 per cent. commission. Send a reference and a 2 cent stamp for one.

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Small collections of U. S. revenue, document, match, medicine and beer stamps. Also odd lots of coins.

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